

Key Aide to Larry Flynt Shot in Chest in Columbus

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A key executive of Larry Flynt's pornography enterprises here was shot Monday night, becoming the third person injured in violence against associates in Flynt businesses in eight months.

Walter William "Bill" Abrams, 33, vice president of Leasure Time Products, was shot outside the firm's headquarters. He was in satisfactory condition at a hospital yesterday.

Eight months ago, Flynt was paralyzed below the hips by a shot fired at him in Lawrenceville, Ga., where he was the defendant in an obscenity trial. His attorney, Gene Reeves Jr., was also injured in that incident.

In addition, a bomb went off Sept. 1 in a car at the Columbus home of William B. Rider, regional sales manager for Flynt Publications and brother-in-law of Althea Leasure Flynt, Larry Flynt's wife. Nobody was hurt in that incident, however.

No suspects have been arrested in any of the violence.

Abrams was shot in the chest while getting into his car. Police said a high-powered weapon was used, but they did not know the motive. Abrams was with Flynt's brother Jimmy, who is president of Leasure Time, a sex paraphernalia firm.

Jimmy Flynt said Abrams didn't want to talk to anybody. "I could tell you the CIA done it," Jimmy Flynt said, "but all that's bull. If I can't give you the facts, I won't give you nothing."

Flynt has claimed that either the FBI or the CIA was involved in his shooting because of stories in his publications dealing with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Deputies said there is little chance Abrams was shot by mistake. He had just opened the door of his car, which was parked in an assigned space with his name on it.

Jimmy Flynt, in his own car, heard a shot and saw Abrams fall into the vehicle, deputies said. After a few seconds, they said, Abrams ran to Flynt's car and the two men headed for the hospital.

The bullet passed through Abrams' chest, missing his heart by three inches, then shattered against the building housing Leasure Time Products. Neither Abrams nor Flynt saw the assailant, officials said.